



The **Blurb**

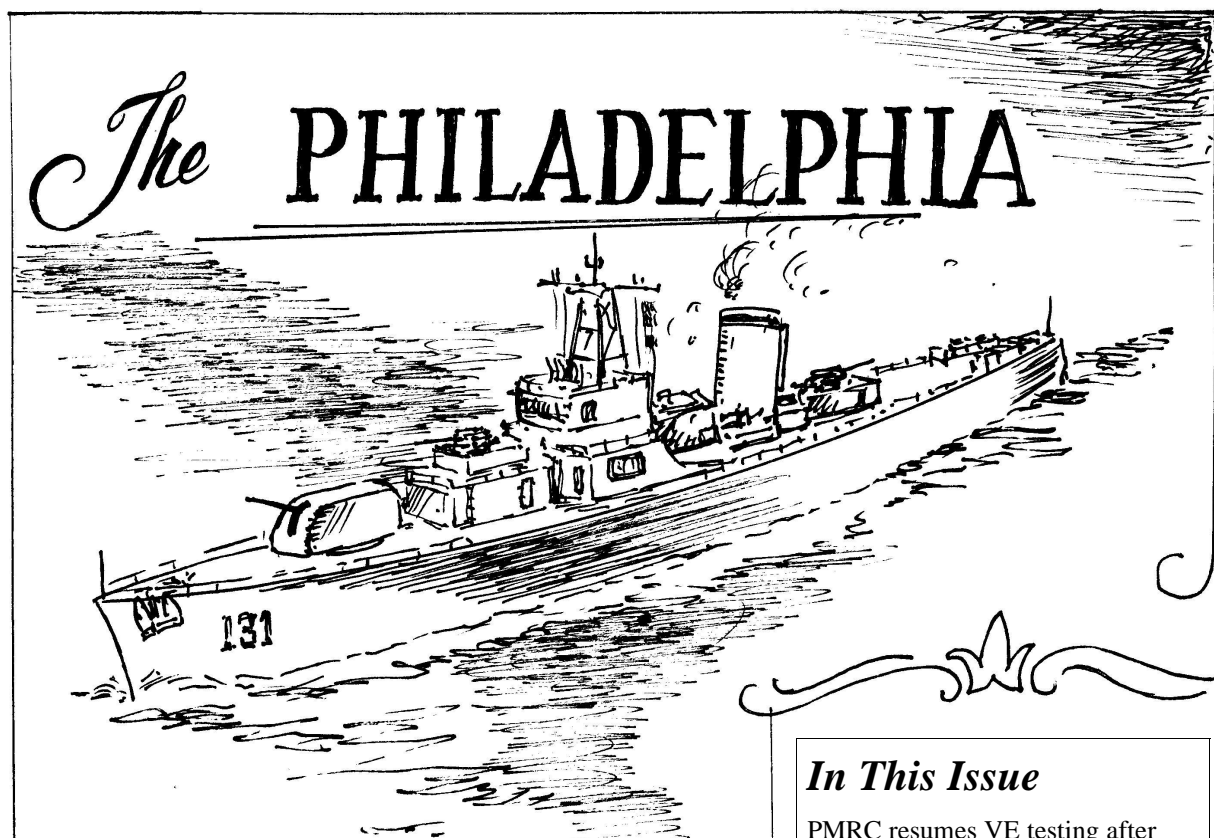


Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
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March 2003



EXPERIMENT

OCTOBER 23 1943

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The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Northeast High School,

Cottman and Algon Sts., Philadelphia.

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Doors closed and locked at 6:30 P.M. Sharp ! Exams begin.

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater – Trustee: W3BBB
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz
444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

W3EM – Field Day and special events station – Trustee W3VVS
Club 2m simplex frequency : 147.51 MHz

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Committees

Archives: NG3P
Audit: NS3K
Awards:

Blurb folding:
WB3KOJ & WB3KOH
Directory: WB3KOJ
DX: N3MT
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE
Field Day: WU3I

Internet: WU3I
Membership: W3LEN
Net Control: KB3IV
Publicity: W3RM
Program: Club VP

Public Service:
Refreshments: W3AOK
Repeater: W3BBB
Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: WU3I
Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: ND3Q
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
Welcome: K3CJ.

PMRC resumes VE testing after hiatus

The 203rd monthly PMRC-sponsored VE license exams were held November 7th 2002 at the Franklin Institute, and while a final session had been scheduled for December 7th, it was cancelled due to extremely inclement weather. When it was learned that we would not have access to the SPARC wing at Northeast High on our exam day in January, the stage was set for an unusual two-month hiatus in our license exam program.

But on February 6th, the PMRC VE team was back in action, in its new location for the first time. Even though the more winter weather was forecast, we served six examinees and welcomed four new amateur operators to the hobby, including one student from our host high school.

We're looking forward to introducing many students at Northeast to Amateur Radio though operating W3AA at the school, and hope to interest many in taking licence exams right in their own school building.



Northeast High School student Adam Huffnagle receives his Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination from PMRC VE Committee Chairman Dusty Rhoads ND3Q on the evening of February 6th.. As a result of his study and score on the exam, five days later, the FCC granted Adam a Technician class Amateur Radio license with the callsign KB3JCP The SPARC Space Shuttle Simulator is visible in the background.

Welcome to Amateur Radio, Adam!



204th Monthly Phil-Mont

VE Exam Session Statistics

for February 6, 2003

Six candidates took nine elements, and we had two upgrades and four new amateurs. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads ND3Q, and the other participating VEs were

Margaret Leber **K3XS**

Steve Hoch **WU3I**

Jim Perry **W3JRP**

Upcoming Exam Sessions:

(See page 2 for details)

March 6, 2003, April 3, 2003:

We had a note from Fred WA3KIO pointing out this article in the latest issue of Worldradio, suggesting that it might be of interest to our readers. So, since Worldradio is kind enough to grant reprint rights to non-profit club newsletters such as ours, here is Bill Pastrenak WA6ITF writing on...

Repeater "User Rights"

In this edition, we are going to touch on a controversial if not volatile subject: Repeater "User Rights". That is, the perception some hams that do not own repeaters that they still have the "right" to dictate the operational guidelines of some other ham's repeater. You know: those hams who demand to have their say in the way a given repeater operates, versus the reality of law and the FCC interpretation of the law.

As we proceed, we will be quoting from enforcement letters sent by the FCC to various radio amateurs involved in repeater-related disputes. While we are removing names and call signs in deference to all involved in a particular situation, the body of each letter quoted is the word of the FCC.

Do Users Have Rights?

Is there such a thing as repeater user "rights"? Well, "users"—defined in this article as hams who buy a radio and operate using the repeater relay service of another ham—have one definite "right": they can own a radio. And in reality, that's where it ends.

However, there is an ever-growing number of self-appointed ham

radio "lawyers"—most without any legal training—who will tell you that "users" have all sorts of "rights" in determining how a given repeater will be operated, and that they can prove it before God and country—under oath. But interestingly, to date, none have put their "JD" or other legal degree on the line over the issue.

My own opinions on this were set forth in my book "The Practical Handbook of Amateur Radio FM and Repeaters" (TAB Books 1212) back in 1980 and have not changed. In recent days, my beliefs have only been reinforced by FCC action that 100% backs repeater owner-operators in all "user vs. licensee" disputes. Some of it is coming public as this column is being prepared.

"A Repeater is a Public Utility – Not!"

One of the arguments often heard is that a repeater is like a "public utility". It's there to "serve the ham community at the will of those who use it regardless of any parameters that the licensee holder may have put in place." Some have gone to calling them "public Amateur Radio Stations"!

Well, you legal-beagles, have I got some news for you. There is no such thing as a "public Amateur Radio Station". By definition there cannot be. This is because the person whose name appears on a ham license is 100% responsible for the proper operation of that Amateur station. There are no "ifs or buts" about this. It is the law—period.

By way of example, the following is

excerpted from an FCC enforcement letter to a Los Angeles, California repeater owner-operator-licensee about in October of 2002 dealing with the agency's charge that the licensee failed to properly control the actions of the system's user base: *"We also remind you that the decision to operate a repeater is a voluntary one. They are not required by the rules, and they are a convenience, not a necessity. Repeaters are stations under Section 97.205 of the rules, and as such must have a licensee and control operator to insure the immediate proper operation of the stations. If a licensee or control operator of a repeater cannot prevent violations of Commission rules on the repeater, it must be shut down."*

As I stated: There are no "ifs" or "buts". It's clear and concise. If a user breaks a rule, the machine goes away. Period.

If He Has No Rights What is A User Anyway?

A repeater user is just that: a "user" of someone else's property. He or she is a guest on an automated radio relay station—no different than if that repeater owner/operator invited him into his/her home to operate. He/she must abide by the FCC rules—and the specific rules of conduct that YOU as licensee holder set. If that ham is unwilling, the station owner can kick him out of the house—or off of the repeater.

He Whose Name is on The Machine Makes The Rules

Pseudo ham lawyers (with or

without a degree) aside—the real law says that it is the person who operates the repeater—not the "guest" user—who is the person in charge. Not a radio club. Not a Board of Directors. Not a "Repeater Committee". It's the name on the licence attached to the call sign that identifies a repeater that is legally responsible for all aspects of operation.

If a particular "user" does not like the guide lines that you, as repeater operator, have set, you can tell him to take a proverbial "hike". Not only that: If you are in the "right" you will get the backing of the FCC. Another enforcement letter to a Mid-West aradio amateur in mid-November 2002 makes this crystal-clear. *"On September 26, 2001, the [name deleted] Radio Association issued a letter to you requesting that you refrain from using their [call deleted] repeater system. A copy of that letter is enclosed.*

"The letter was issued as a result of your failing to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the [call deleted] repeater for its users. You were issued another such letter on March 6, 2002 (copy enclosed), but in September and October you made transmissions on the repeater system. [emphasis added]"

"The Commission requires that repeaters be under the supervision of a control operator and holds such control operators and licensees responsible for the proper operation of the repeater system. Control operators may take whatever steps are appropriate to ensure

compliance among the users.

"Please be advised that we expect you to abide by the request to stay off the call deleted] system and your failure to do so after the receipt of this letter will jeopardize your Amateur licence. If you use this repeater again we will initiate enforcement action against your license, which may include revocation, forfeiture or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which you may operate..." [emphasis added].

In other words: Operate on a repeater where you are not wanted and face the possibility of losing your ticket. I don't think one needs a degree in communications law or political science to realize that the FCC sees a big difference between the people who devote themselves to placing a repeater on the air and those who transitorily use it. And I suspect that the only way to change this would be for one of the self-styled ham radio lawyers to challenge it in a court of law. I am also willing to be that nobody will.

—by Bill Pasternak WA6ITF
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Worldradio, March 2003.
Visit the Worldradio website at
<http://www.wr6wr.com>

The Philadelphia Experiment

by Sam Kunceovich N3QIE

Part I (originally published in The Blurb, March 1989)

For those who have never heard of

the so-called "Philadelphia Experiment", briefly it's all about an experiment at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, based on Einstein's "Matter to Energy, Back to Matter". The experiment as reported, was about a ship (at the yard) that was teleported to Norfolk, Virginia and back again. The time element, uncertain, but not important. I will give you the facts as I found them; you decide if it happened or not. The Navy, obviously, says it never happened.

I first learned about it in 1958, from an article published in *Fate* magazine. They said it was witnessed by crew members of a cargo ship in Norfolk harbor. They were part of the crew of the SS Andrew Furnseth waiting at anchor to off-load a cargo at Norfolk.

One of the crew was a man named Carlos Allende, a native of Mexico, so his papers claim. He also lived, part time, in Reading PA. He carried two Social Security cards, Carlos Allende and Carl Allen. Allende or Allen claims to have witnessed the sudden appearance of the DE class ship USS *Eldridge* DE-173 during the morning of October 23, 1943. And, after several minutes, fade from sight. He also claims that the ship came from the Philadelphia Navy Yard and back in a matter of minutes. He does not clearly explain how he knew the ship came from Philadelphia as a part of the experiment.

He later sent in a series of letter, in regard to that experiment, to a Dr. Jessup, a friend and associate of Dr. Albert Einstein. Those letters were examines and notations made, by Dr. Jessup and his staff.

The letters were copied and put together as a small manuscript; only eight copies were made. After the sudden and mysterious death of Dr. Jessup and the disappearance of several of his staff, these papers were release and became known as "The Allende Papers".

At this point in time of my research, 1965, and the names I now give, have given me an OK to use, or they are deceased. Being employed at the Shipyard during this time, up to 1982, I was in a position to go into some shipyard records and file s to find anything relating to the October 23, 1945 date—a Saturday—or to the USS *Eldridge* DE-173.

I found a listing of all the ships that came into the Navy Yard in 1943, including the date of arrival, to what pier or drydock that ship was located, the nature of the work (repair, overhaul or conversion) and the date of departure.

The listing indicated that the USS *Eldridge* was not in the shipyard in 1943. I assumed then it was another ship, not the *Eldridge*. Checking the list again, I found the USS *Hammann* DE-131 came into the yard October 20, 1943, was berthed at Pier A, back channel, and no record of the purpose of arrival or nature of work, and no departure date! Unusual to say the least.

Official Navy records show the USS *Eldridge* was later sold to the Greek Navy, but no record agreed on what was the future of the USS *Hammann*. One record said it was mothballed at a Texas ship reserve station. Another located it at Little Creek, Virginia. Still another said it

was sold to Greece.

Another interesting fact was that the USS *Hammann* was originally named *Langley* and was renamed prior to coming to the Navy Yard. This, too, is unusual.

This now convinced me that the ship in question was not the *Eldridge* but the USS *Hammann*. My search of the records uncovered another unusual fact. On the supposed date of the experiment, October 23, 1943, at all shops and offices on that day, a Saturday, the back channel employees were assigned work in other locations or given the day off. Most unusual for a wartime shipyard. This fact was verified in conversation with a now retired and deceased member of Liaison Group, Jimmie Judge.

Some years later, ten years to be exact, not much progress was made in my research. In 1968 the USS *Sullivans* incident took place in the shipyard's back channel. The *Sullivans*, a "Mothball" ship, was undergoing it's regular inspection below main deck, checking for water, checking the dehumidifiers and the lighting system. This work is done by Navy personnel who go aboard ships and make the inspections as required. On that day of the *Sullivans*' inspection, three sailors went aboard by way of an access hatch on the weather deck aft. As the last man went aboard and made his way with a flashlight he heard the access hatch slam shut. The first one who went below was on the second level down at the forward end of the ship. He was shaken first by the swish of an object "thrown" by his ear and the clang of a door-dogging wench clattering against a bulkhead.

Needless to say, they all left the ship rather hurriedly. The word got out to the news media and the story made headlines of "The Ghost Ship at the Yard".

There was mention made about the ship's log book in storage at the yard. Out of curiosity, I called the reserve fleet to ask if the log book of the USS *Hammann* was in storage here and was it available for viewing. I spoke to a Chief Boatswain's Mate Hansen who then referred me to a Commander Hebner. The reply I was given was that I needed a letter from the shipyard commander stating a "Need to Know". That ended my search for the logbook of the *Hammann*.

Several days later, June ??, 1968, I got a phone call from the shipyard security office at Building 695, requesting my appearance as soon as possible. I reported to intelligence office Captain William Glencoe, who questioned me about the ship's log book of the *Hammann*. I explained that I was doing research on the Philadelphia Experiment, that I knew very little about the story. He said I can go back to work and he would contact me again in a few days. The following week I was called again to report to the office and was handed an opened letter. It was from the Office of Naval Intelligence. It was addressed to Captain Glencoe and it specified that "I, the researcher, was to discontinue further research of the Philadelphia Experiment". The letter was taken back and placed in a file. Now I have no proof of the Navy's objection to my research.

The following Monday, when I got

back to my drawing board, I found my files and drawers had been searched. Was I being search for research material, or just ransacked by the night janitors? From that time I kept no records of my work.

...to be continued next month....



A microwave antenna...from a cardboard box?

One challenging aspect of getting on the AMSAT-OSCAR 40 satellite is that the working downlink frequencies are in the microwave bands. While most of us have experience with building and using HF, VHF and UHF antennas, some of us (including your editor!) have struggled to find downlink antennas with just the right characteristics: enough gain to hear the downlink clearly (through a downconverter that was perhaps designed for a terrestrial MMDS TV link) but not so much gain (and directionality) that antenna pointing becomes supercritical.

Some of us started out with small helix antennas, but as the usage of AO-40 has gone up, the available downlink power for each signal has gone down, and what used to work well enough is no longer sufficient. This has driven a move to use various higher-gain, lower-noise downconverter/preamplifier



Tony AA2TX at the AMSAT 2002 Space Symposium, with two examples of his "disposable" antennas for AO_40 operation. On the right is an antenna for the S-band downlink, and on the left a dipole-fed UHF corner reflector for the U-band (70cm) uplink. (photo credit: Dr. Tom Clarke)

systems, and larger, higher gain antennas usually emplyng some form of dish reflector. Unless you have access to a surplus VSAT dish, you may find constructing one to be no small challenge.

Now comes our man of the hour, Anthony Montiero AA2TX with a radical new way to build an old microwave antenna design, the pyramidal horn. Tony's brainstorm is to use cardboard boxes lined with aluminum foil as reflecting surfaces. And it works!

Difficult? Not at all. A number of sixth graders attending the AMSAT 2002 Space Symposium in Ft. Worth TX (where Tony presented his new design as part of the technical program) were able

to construct these antennas without too much trouble.

Construction details are available in the March 2003 QST, or as a part of the proceedings of the Symposium (\$20 from AMSAT-NA, 850 Sligo Av #600, Silver Spring MD 20910 or call 301-589-6062).

Your editor is hoping to soon try to reproduce this design using wire mesh (which she originally bought to build a stressed parabolic reflector) to provide less wind loading and more water resistance for a more permanent installation.

Point your web browser to

http://www.pbase.com/tomcat/kids__amsat

to see photos of the sixth graders building their satellite antennas

Board of Directors Meeting February 5th

Attending were Al W3STW, Jim W3BBB, Steve WU3I, Charlye K3CJ, Maggie K3XS, Bill W3AOK, Ed KB3IV, Dick W3RM, and Fred WA3KIO.

Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order.

Treasurer: Dick W3RM reported we are \$500 ahead. Dues are still coming in. Contributions are coming in for this year's Claude H. Haring Memorial Scholarship.

Steve WU3I reported that the Fort Washington State Park site for Field Day is not free anymore but the cost will be covered. We are registered for Field Day in June.

Al W3STW, Gene N3XKE and Steve WU3I have been to Northeast High School. The consoles are in the station. The school's equipment has been logged and identified with a copy given to Anthony Matorozzo, the director of the SPARC program.

The web site is running fine now with a link to register on line for the MS150.

An up and coming "Hints and Kinks" type of column was discussed to be in future Blurbs by Ted N3OWM on computer questions.

A discussion was held on looking in to transferring the trustee of Northeast High's club back to the school.

Al W3STW reported that the programs are coming along. Up and coming meetings will feature fiber optic cables from the Verizon people, a meeting honoring Rollie W3PWG,

There were no new members to vote on this month.

The next board meeting will be March 5th. At this time, the meeting was adjourned.

73 de WA3KIO

General Meeting February 12th

Attending the meeting were 25 guests and members.

Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order at 8:20pm. An announcement was made of the passing of Patricia Mannino, XYL of Bill WA3NSP.

Treasurer, Dick W3RM reported we are solvent. We made our goal for \$2000 for the Claude H. Haring Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will be awarded by Philmont through the Foundation For Amateur Radio (FAR).

Ed reported the nets are running fine.

Steve WU3I reported that the first VE testing session was conducted at Northeast High School and was highly successful. One new amateur was a Northeast High student. Ed KB3IV introduced new amateur Ray KB3JCR who was also at the VE session.

W3YC/W3AA is moving along well with the consoles moved in and lined up. When the weather warms up, Steve will be installing antennas. He is looking into getting a 72-foot crank up tower donated. Field Day: With Steve's satellite antennas permanently on his roof, he has been in talks with a portable AO40 station that may show up at Field Day.

Reservations are made with the state park for Field Day.

Web site is up and running.

Blurb: Maggie K3XS is asking for articles.

Archives: Gwen NG3P is asking for help in identifying photos in the archives. If anyone can spare time to go through the archives, please contact her.

Public Service: Russ W3CH reported on upcoming public service events. Signup for the MS150 can now be done on line at the Philmont website. The walks are coming up.

Al W3STW reviewed upcoming programs.

At this time Al introduced our guest Kristina Fransel from the MS Society who spoke after a fine pizza dinner courtesy of the MS Society.

73 de WA3KIO

Computer Tips from N3OWM

Speedup surfing the WEB

For \$29.99 you can get an application that "speeds up your WEB surfing".

Here is a way to do it for free.

First, a little bit of background. When you type in a web address into the address space of your browser you use a FQDN or a fully-qualified domain name, which is in the first part of the page address which is called the URL or universal resource locator.

However, the Internet does not understand names. The name has to be resolved into an IP (internet protocol address. This address is a group of numbers usually written in 'dotted decimal notation' and looks like this: 192.168.1.2.

This translation occurs across the Internet, a message is sent to a collection of Domain Name Servers and answer is returned to your system. This process is called Resolving the DNS . This process can take up to several seconds in real time.

There is a document (file) called **hosts** in most computers that are iInternet connected. In Windows systems it is in the c:\windows\system folder and in Windows NT and Windows 2000, the file is located in the c:\winnt\system32\driver\etc folder. (In UNIX based systems such as Linux it is found in the /etc directory)

It is a text file and can be edited (or created) with a simple text editor. This file is used to convert DNS names directly to IP addresses, without using the Domain Name Server system.

Now go to the DOS mode on your system and type in the following command:

Ping www.ibm.com

You will receive a message back from the Internet that will look like this:

Pinging www.ibm.com
[129.42.19.99] with 32 bytes of data;

Now we have the IP address of www.ibm.com and we can open or create the file called hosts with a text editor.

And add the following line

129.42.19.99 www.ibm.com

The file format is
IP address tab alias (name)

You can ping all your favorite sites and add the address line to the hosts file.

Remember though, if the IP address changes (which it sometimes can, which is why there is a DNS system) it will appear to your computer as though that system has dropped off of the Internet or is down. If this happens, you'll have to remove the affected line from the hosts file and use the ping command again to discover the new address.

DE N3OWM



PMRC New Member Applicant
Raymond Heffernan –KB3JCR
(Tech) 779 Tennis Avenue,
Glenside, PA 19038. Home 215–
885–5364. Work 215–884–6341.
KB3JCR@arrrl.net

March Birthdays

03 Elaine Spencer (XYL W3BBB)
09 Fayette Toren (XYL N2MT)
11 Gale Ackerman (XYL N3DO)
Josh Bowers – KB3HPS*

15 Dottie Scialdone–Maresca –
K3YPH

16 Susan Vece (XYL W2AJV)

18 Ed Losco – N3DLV

21 Ben Roeshman – W3LKI

23 Henry Platt – W3UI

25 Perry Blum – W3PTB

27 William (Red) MacKenzie –
W3RED

28 Steve Rubin – KB3CFS

Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)

31 Ted Lada – N3FTZ

*New member 2002

LAST CALL

If your dues are not paid by the end of February, your name will not appear in the 2003 PMRC directory and you will no longer receive the Blurb

Date	PMRC Events – March 2003
Sat 01	
Sun 02	NCS: 2m K3XS 75m W2AJV
Mon 03	
Tue 04	
Wed 05	Board of Directors meets at WRDV Hatboro
Thu 06	VE Exams at Northeast High School– see page 2
Fri 07	
Sat 08	
Sun 09	NCS: 2m WU3I 75M WA3KIO
Mon 10	
Tue 11	
Wed 12	PMRC general meeting --- The Masonic Home 7:30pm
Thu 13	
Fri 14	
Sat 15	
Sun 16	NCS: 2m KB3IV 75m KB3IV
Mon 17	
Tue 18	
Wed 19	
Thu 20	
Fri 21	
Sat 22	
Sun 23	NCS: 2m WB3KOJ 75M W3STW
Mon 24	
Tue 25	
Wed 26	
Thu 27	
Fri 28	
Sat 29	
Sun 30	NCS: 2m W3BBB 75m W3BBB
Mon 31	

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

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